

REMARKS

Attorney for Applicants has carefully reviewed the outstanding Office Action on the above-identified patent application. Applicants have amended the application, as set forth herein, and respectfully submit that the application, as amended, is in condition for allowance.

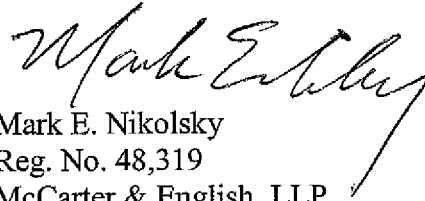
Claims 1-13 were indicated in the Office Action as being allowed, and Claims 21, 22, 35, 45, and 46 were indicated as containing allowable subject matter. To expedite issuance of a patent, Applicants have amended independent Claim 14 to contain the limitations of allowable dependent Claim 21, and have cancelled dependent Claim 21. Dependent Claim 22 was amended to depend directly from amended independent Claim 14. Independent Claim 27 was amended to include the subject matter of allowable dependent Claim 35, and Claim 35 was cancelled. Finally, independent Claim 38 was amended to include the subject matter of allowable dependent Claim 45 and intervening dependent Claims 42-44, and Claims 42-45 were cancelled.

Applicants make these amendments to expedite issuance of a patent, and make no representation as to the merits of the Office Action. Applicants preserve the right to file one or more continuation applications directed to the subject matter of the cancelled claims, or broader claims.

All issues raised in the Office Action are believed to be addressed. Claims 14, 22, 27, and 38 were amended, and Claims 21, 35, and 42-45 were cancelled. Claims 1-8, 10-17, 22-34, 36-41, and 46-49 are pending and are in condition for allowance. No new matter has been added. A Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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Respectfully submitted,



Mark E. Nikolsky
Reg. No. 48,319
McCarter & English, LLP
Four Gateway Center
100 Mulberry Street
Newark, NJ 07102
Tel.: (973) 639-6987
Fax: (973) 297-6624